



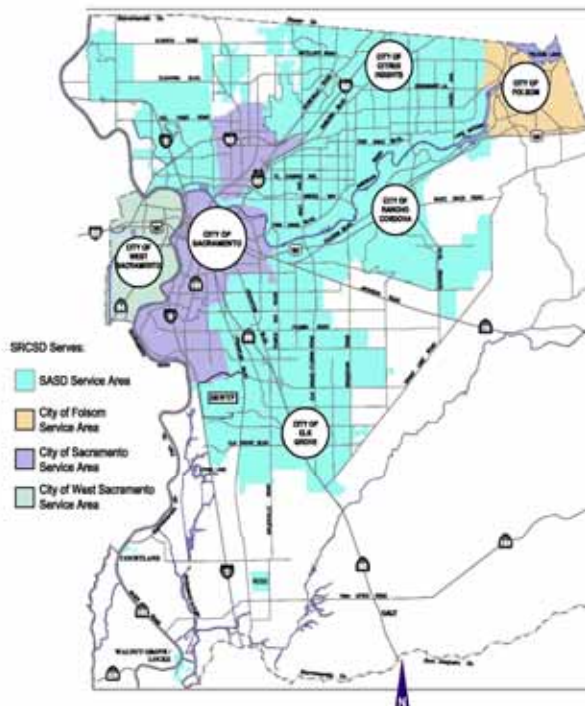
**Discussion on the Sacramento Regional  
Wastewater Treatment Plant's  
NPDES Permit**  
*Delta Stewardship Council*

October 28, 2010  
Stan Dean  
*District Engineer*

## **SRCSD Background**

- SRWTP began operating in 1982
- Replaced 22 separate treatment systems to improve water quality in region
- Last NPDES Permit issued in 2000
- RWQCB issued Tentative Permit Sept. 3, 2010
- Service area includes unincorporated Sacramento County; the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento and West Sacramento; and the communities of Walnut Grove and Courtland

# SRCS Service Area



## Tentative Permit Leads to Expensive Treatment

- Nitrification = \$582 million
- Denitrification = \$200 million
- Microfiltration = \$1.16 billion
- UV Disinfection = \$116 million

**TOTAL COST = \$2.06 Billion**

## How much will this help the Delta?



- 2% overall improvement in ecosystem health?
- 5% overall improvement in ecosystem health?
- Will it be more?
- Will it be less?

## How far should we go?



- If costs are \$2 billion?
- If \$2 billion was only \$200 million?
- If you are the one who has to pay for it, do your answers change?
- Would your answers be different if you were already struggling to make ends meet?

## Where is the cost/benefit analysis for Delta fixes?



- Project “X”
  - \$1 Billion
  - 2% Improvement
- Project “Y”
  - \$500 Million
  - 4% Improvement

## Cost to Sacramento’s Ratepayers

Total Project Costs	Annual Operating Cost	Monthly Residential Charge for Wastewater Treatment		Impact Fees per household (or equivalent)			
				Infill		New	
		Current	Future	Current	Future	Current	Future
\$2.06 billion	\$77 million	\$20.00*	\$61.50	\$ 2,800	\$13,000	\$7,450	\$35,000

\*This does not include a separate monthly charge for sewer collection services, which is currently around \$20 per month.

## SRCSD's Position



- Removing about half of the ammonia is prudent to address future conditions.
- Additional treatment not adequately justified due to a lack of scientific certainty on the Delta benefits and the cost.

### **SRCSD's mission:**

- Protect public health
- Protect the environment
- Be fiscally responsible for its ratepayers

## Concern with Letter



- After the fact approval by the DSC
- Differing opinion on the significance of ammonium in the Delta.

## Reducing the Ammonium Load



- May 2009 – Treatment Plant changed operation to achieve 12% reduction
- Water recycling

## South Sacramento Agriculture & Habitat Water Recycling Project



**“This project should be pursued with urgency.”**

Walter Wadlow – Alameda County Water District  
G.F. Duerig – Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation  
District, Zone 7  
Jerry Brown – Contra Costa Water District  
James Beck – Kern County Water Agency  
Jeff Kightlinger – Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Dan Nelson – San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Beau Goldie – Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Byron Buck – State & Federal Contractors Water Agency  
Terry Erlewine – State Water Contractors  
Tom Birmingham – Westlands Water District

## Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



There is much we know how to do, and our possibilities are vast.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century must be about balance and reconciliation; choosing possibilities that we can afford.